

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/667,075

Applicant(s)

SHIKAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Aaron W. Carter

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers filed on 3/18/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/03, 3/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Berliner (RN 20121) on May 24, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 9, line 5, please insert the following -"a-5c"- after -"FIGS. 5"- and before -"respectively"-.

On page 9, line 7, please insert the following -"a-6d"- after -"FIGS. 6"- and before -"respectively"-.

On page 9, line 10, please insert the following -"a-8d"- after -"FIGS. 8"- and before -"respectively"-.

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On page 9, line 5, please insert the following -“a-9d”- after -“FIGS. 9”- and before -“respectively”-.

On page 9, line 5, please insert the following -“a and 10b”- after -“FIGS. 10”- and before -“ respectively”-.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-10 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

2. As to claims 1, 5, 9 and 10, none of the prior art teach or fairly suggest the limitation of “applying a density compensation process to said differential image to prepare a density compensated image”, “applying an edge detection filter to said density compensated image to prepare an edge detection filter applied image” and “converting said edge detection filter applied image into binary data according to a predetermined threshold value”, in combination with the other limitations of the claims. The prior art of USPN 5,848,189 to Pearson et al. discloses applying a gray scale erosion or dilation filter to a non-defect surface of a printed matter in preparing an reference image and subtracting a captured image from the reference image to create a differential image (Fig. 14). Pearson et al. does not teach or fairly suggest the

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limitations of applying a density compensation process to said differential image to prepare a density compensated image, applying an edge detection filter to said density compensated image to prepare an edge detection filter applied image and converting said edge detection filter applied image into binary data according to a predetermined threshold value, as disclosed in the limitations of the claims 1, 5, 9 and 10.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 2005/0074140 to Grasso et al. discloses using an erosion/dilation filter in pattern inspection.

USPN 5,365,596 to Dante et al. discloses using an erosion/dilation filter in pattern inspection.

USPN 5,828,771 to Bloomberg discloses using an erosion/dilation filter in pattern inspection.

USPN 6,269,194 to Nichani discloses using an erosion/dilation filter in pattern inspection.

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USPN 7,017,492 to Seymour discloses using an erosion/dilation filter in pattern inspection.

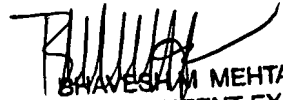
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron W. Carter whose telephone number is (571) 272-7445.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8am - 4:30 am (Mon. - Fri.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on (571) 272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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AWC


BHAVESH MEHTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600